Art Unit 2137   Reply to Office Action of: September 28, 2005
Serial No. 10/003,675   Attorney Docket No.: K35A1023

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful and thoughtful examination of the present application. Claims 1-6 were pending before the Examiner and have been rejected. The Applicant has made no amendments to the pending claims, and presents the arguments below. Therefore, Claims 1-6 remain pending.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 4-6 under § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent publication no. 2002/0010863 to Mankefors (the Mankefors publication). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the Mankefors publication fails to identically teach every element of the rejected claims. See M.P.E.P. § 2131 (stating that in order to anticipate a claim, a prior art reference must identically teach every element of the claim).

Claim 1 recites the step of, *inter alia*, "notifying the disk drive of a location of the mailbox file in the first range of addressable locations, wherein the disk drive can perform a function characterized by contents of the mailbox file." The Mankefors publication neither teaches nor discloses these limitations.

The Examiner cites page 5, paragraph [0038] of the Mankefors publication as disclosing the above step. Yet, nowhere in this paragraph does Mankefors teach notifying the disk drive of a location of the mailbox file.

In response to the Applicant's previously submitted Arguments, the Examiner further asserts that, in paragraphs [0042] and [0043] of the Mankefors publication, Mankefors discloses how "the system accesses the flags, by using characteristics of the disk drive, timestamps, and random number generation." While the Applicant agrees that Mankefors discloses how **the system 10** accesses the flags (e.g., Mankefors discloses that "[t]he system 10 further includes a verification routine, which makes it possible to save control information (flags) in a special location 14, accessible by the computer unit 11" (Mankefors, para. [0038])), Mankefors does not teach notifying **a disk drive** of a location of a mailbox file.

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Furthermore, the Examiner has not shown how the disk drive disclosed by
Mankefors can perform a function characterized by contents of a mailbox file. The
Examiner has stated that "[t]he disk controller, by definition, directs and controls reading
from and writing to a computer's disk drive. This means that the disk controller will
perform an executable function characterized by the contents of the mailbox file every
time the mailbox file is accessed." The Applicant disagrees. As is well known to those
of skill in the art, a disk drive performs reading and writing functions based upon the
addressable location of accessed files. Reading or writing to a conventional disk drive
using conventional disk drive commands does not cause a disk drive to perform "a
function characterized by **contents** of the mailbox file." Mankefors provides no teaching
nor disclosure of a disk drive that can perform a function characterized by contents of a
mailbox file.

Claim 4 recites the step of, *inter alia*, "responding to the command by performing
within the disk controller an executable function characterized by contents of the
mailbox file." The Mankefors publication neither teaches nor discloses these limitations.

The Examiner has not shown an executable function performed within the disk
controller characterized by contents of a mailbox file. The Examiner has stated that
"[t]he disk controller, by definition, directs and controls reading from and writing to a
computer's disk drive. This means that the disk controller will perform an executable
function characterized by the contents of the mailbox file every time the mailbox file is
accessed." The Applicant disagrees. As is well known to those of skill in the art, a disk
drive performs reading and writing functions based upon the **addressable location** of
accessed files. Reading or writing to a conventional disk drive using conventional disk
drive commands does not cause a disk controller to perform "an executable function
characterized by **contents** of the mailbox file." Mankefors provides no teaching nor
disclosure of responding to a command by performing within a disk controller an
executable function characterized by contents of a mailbox file.

In view of at least the above shortcomings of the Examiner's § 102(e) rejections,
the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of Claims 1 and 4 be withdrawn.
The rejections of Claims 2-3 and 5-6, which depend from Claims 1 and 4 respectively,

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should be withdrawn for at least the same reasons articulated above with respect to
Claims 1 and 4, and because of the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending
claims are now in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the rejections.
If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the
present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is
invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any required fees
associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.
23-1209.

Respectfully submitted,
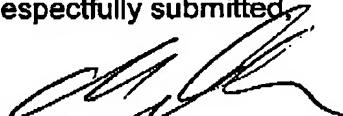
Date: <u>November 22, 2005</u>   By: _____
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